Blue Ribbons

Honesty is the best policy

Les Zuckerman, President of International Lease Consultants, Inc. of Mamaroneck, NY heaped praises on NJDOTers in Central Region Maintenance, Richard Davis and William Hunter, for their honesty. When Zuckerman's wife lost her wallet on New Year's Eve, Davis and Hunter recovered it on I-195 and returned it intact. Although they declined a reward, they did wish the Zuckermans a happy new year.

"They have restored our faith in the humanity of mankind," said Zuckerman.

Arizona DOT Commissioner Larry Bonine (left) looks on as Iowa DOT Commissioner Darrel Rensink (right) presents the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Standing Committee on Quality Award to Assistant Commissioner for Capital Program Management Russell Tong at the Salt Lake City, UT meeting in November.

Fernwood men earn ASE credentials

Thirteen men who work in the Fernwood area of Headquarters are working smarter by earning the most valuable credential for automotive technicians. On their own time and at their own expense, they applied for

continued on page 4

Vol. 32, No. 3
March 1998
Governor Christie Whitman
Commissioner John J. Haley Jr.

TRANSPORTER

Commissioner John J. Haley Jr. speaks at a Washington D.C. press conference where he delivered petitions with 1,000 signatures urging continued ISTEA funding to Rep. Bud Shuster (far left), chairperson of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. With the Commissioner are NJ Assemblyman Alex DeCroce, former NJ Congressman Robert A. Roe and NJ Chamber President Joan Verplank, Congressmen Bill Franks and Bill Pascrell.

Haley spurs ISTEA effort in Capital

New Jersey state legislators, local elected officials and the business community joined Commissioner John J. Haley Jr. at the annual Chamber of Commerce "Walk to Washington" press conference last month. The press event focused on the need to know the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) legislation and to maximize additional continued funding for transportation.

In conjunction with the ISTEA Works for New Jersey, representatives rallied at the Capitol to present petitions with over 1,000 signatures to Bud Shuster, Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, urging that no change occur in the ISTEA funding for New Jersey.

On November 12, 1997, Congress passed a six-month extension of ISTEA, which expires this spring. The $26 billion

continued on page 2

New driver manual adds color

The latest New Jersey Driver Manual is the first with a full color cover. It's also the first that reached out to the users of the manual for suggestions — and took them to heart. The new manual also reflects the cooperation of many different units in Motor Vehicle Services and the Communications Office.

Driving is a rite of passage for many New Jersey teenagers. And the NJ Driver Manual is a vital part of that ritual — you need the information contained within its pages to pass the written portion of the driver test.

That's why, when the 1996 edition of the NJ Driver Manual was ready for revision, the Communications Office enlisted the help of thousands of potential drivers through a questionnaire sent to every high school and driving school in the state. The goal was to overhaul the manual in the most user-friendly way possible.

The 10 questions on the form were specific. They graded the manual on drivers' needs, use, contents, language, size and illustrations. The respondents, teachers and students, sent back 1,200 questionnaires that were analyzed by Edyth Hetman, Debbi Hutton and Judi Tessein in Communications. As might be expected, a few students asked that just the actual test with the answers be printed so they didn't have to read the entire book! Respondents also volunteered to be on a committee that would review the new edition before printing.

Hetman worked with Art Smith at Motor Vehicles researching new materials and also with truckers' groups, safety associations and special interest groups to

continued on page 2

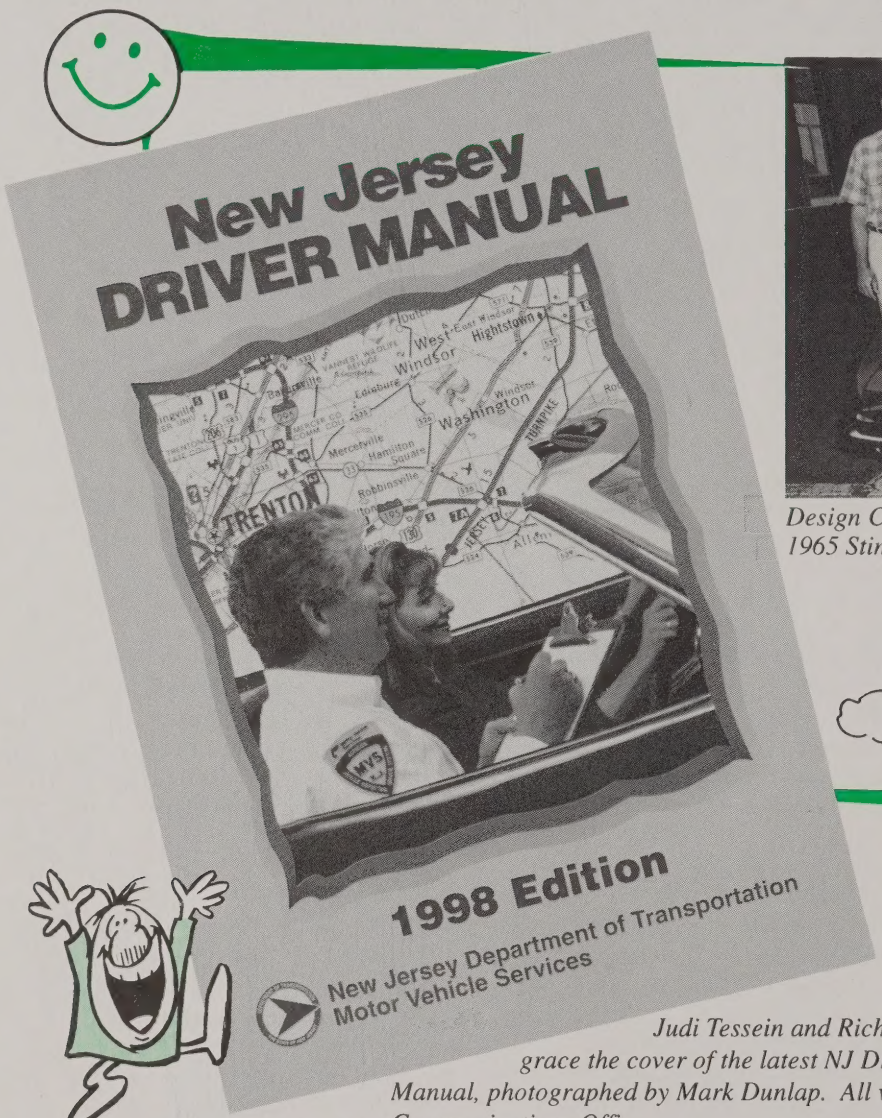
ISTEA *continued from page 1*

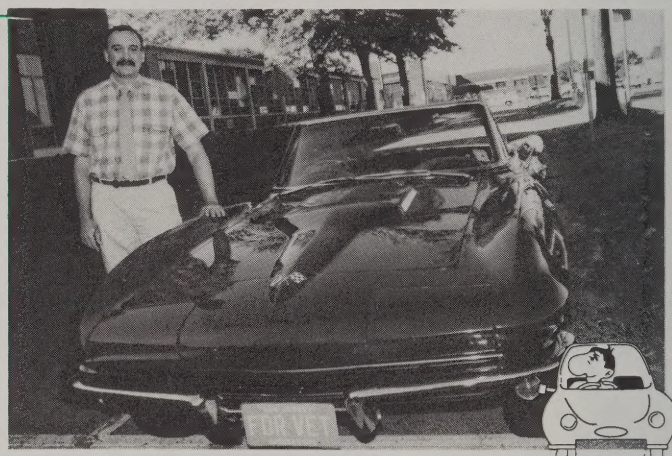
annual needs-based funding program for the nation's highway and transit systems makes up more than 50 percent of NJDOT's capital budget.

"New Jersey has to convince all other states that our transportation needs are critical," said Commissioner Haley. Many New Jersey projects such as a redesign of the Routes 4 and 17 interchange, a 10-mile light rail project from Saddle Brook to Weehawken and a rail transfer station at Secaucus are dependent upon federal money.

Southern and western states feel that states such as New Jersey have received more than their fair share and are now seeking a shift of money to benefit their regions. Each state would then receive only a percentage based upon their gasoline consumption instead of using a needs basis formula.

New Jersey needs this ISTEA funding for infrastructure improvements, bridge repair, safety initiatives, the Urban Core, public transit, environmental quality and pedestrian and bicycle facilities.





Design Coordination's Frank Dellarossa stands next to his 1965 Stingray Corvette that was used in the cover photo.

Judi Tessein and Rich Melini grace the cover of the latest NJ Driver Manual, photographed by Mark Dunlap. All work in the Communications Office.

Driver manual *continued from page 1*

identify their concerns and verify the information. NJDOT/MVS staff at Bakers Basin and MVS Systems; Purchasing's Gail Dunn; Technical Support's Bob Grill, Mark Marino, Barb Comfort and Nancy Drew; Legal's Jeff Pistol; Legislative Analysis' Debbi Stevenson and Karen Diaz; Traffic Engineering Operations' Bill Anderson and Office of Capital Project Safety's Anker Winther all contributed.

Hutton, who had computerized the book in 1996 when she and Hetman moved from MVS to Communications, redid the printing specifications and worked with the printer to develop the new look. Graphic artist Frank Bridgewater redesigned every illustration. Mark Dunlap, also in Communications, photographed the cover.

If you'd like a copy of the 1998 edition of the manual, stop at the reception desks in the E&O building or the Main office building.

TRANSPORTER

Governor Christine Todd Whitman
Commissioner John J. Haley Jr.

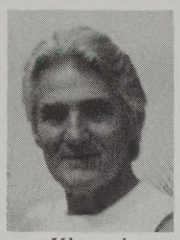
The *Transporter* is published for the employees and retirees of the New Jersey Department of Transportation. It is written and designed by the Communications Office, Main Office Building, Trenton, NJ 08625, 609-530-2127. E-Mail TP1HETM, Fax 609-530-5469. Deadline is the first of each month.

The Transporter is printed by the Department's Print Shop.

Camille Sinclair, Managing Editor; **Edyth Hetman,** News, Features; **Frank Bridgewater,** Graphic Artist; **Mark Dunlap,** Photography; **Jim Berzok**, **John Dourgarian** and **Dave Brown,** Contributors; **Kathleen Callahan** and **Judi Tessein,** Support Staff.

People Briefs

Klossek goes for the gold


Klossek

No, we're not talking about the Olympics in Nagano, Japan, but a billiards parlor in Hoboken. It's with Willy McBride's team that Ron Klossek will play for the NJ gold cup in billiards competition.

After a self-imposed 24-year "layoff" from the sports scene, Assistant Supervisor Ron Klossek of North Region's Elizabeth Crew 2550 returned to the pool billiards competition in 1997 through an unfortunate incident. When a family member in Allentown, PA died, Klossek's son-in-law installed the inherited pool table in his basement. Klossek started to play and the urge to compete came back. A member of the American Poolplayers Association of the Bud-Lite League and the Billiards Congress of America, Klossek also belongs to two leagues, and is undefeated in league play.

"I couldn't do this without my Joss cue stick," said Klossek. Manufacturer of custom cue sticks, Joss Company made cue sticks for actors Tom Cruise and Paul Newman when they starred in "The Color of Money."

"Those cue sticks are expensive. They run from $1,000 to $12,000 each. Cue sticks are in two pieces for easy carrying and have a stainless steel bolt where they join."

If Willy McBride's team gets the gold cup, they'll also win a trip to Las Vegas for the United States Open Championship Games. Meanwhile, Klossek's busy every Monday night at Herbert's Billiards Parlor in Secaucus keeping his other team (the Snipers) in first league place.

Why is Klossek so successful? "When I play, I block out anything else that's going on," he said. "If there are 80 people watching, I don't even know they're there — that's how involved I get in the game. I like to come in number one, too. That helps. My 'lucky' nickname when I shoot pool is Dracula! The fans seem to love it."

New Arrivals

Safety Specialist II **Thomas Abraham** of Westfield Inspection Station, his wife Annamma and daughter Jensen welcomed their 6 lb, 12 oz. son and brother, Jeffin on January 25.

Landscape Technician **Richard Christensen** of North Region's Crew 250 and his wife Rose celebrated the birth of their first child on January 30. Tyler Richard weighed in at 7 lbs., 10 oz.

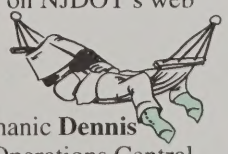
Geotechnical Engineering's **Jafar Aofares** and his wife Faith greeted Feras on February 1. Big sisters Dalia and Deema are delighted about their 8 lb., 11 oz. brother.

Secretarial Assistant I **Theresa Manna** of Aeronautics and Freight Systems and her husband Tom welcomed their first child on February 10. Daniel Thomas weighed in at 9 lbs., 6 oz.

Milestones

CPM Project Manager **Al Algazi** recently received his Master of Science degree in Engineering Management from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. The 24-year NJDOT veteran started with the department as a civil engineering trainee and worked through the ranks. Two years ago Algazi devised a document management system that eliminated delays in pulling up information on bridges and streamlined the recordkeeping system.

Right there when his local school board needed him, CPM Administrative Analyst II DP **Alan Jacobowitz** set up the "kidsafe" web page for Laura Donovan School in Freehold Township. There's information on what's going on in the school and room for students to respond. Jacobowitz is no stranger to the web, as he worked with webmaster Mark Dunlap (Communications Office) to set up NJ maps for public access on NJDOT's web page.



Retiree

Automotive Mechanic **Dennis Katzara** of Regional Operations Central, Equipment Bureau, retired after 21 years and one month of service.

Obituaries

Master Mechanic at Fernwood Garage (Headquarters) **Silas H. Pierson** died August 15, 1997. The NJDOT retiree's survivors include his wife Mary.

Robert G. Conti died November 20, 1997. The retired Design and Right of Way Principal Engineer is survived by his wife Christine, sons Christopher and Matthew, daughter Susan Wieszczek and two grandchildren.

World War II Army veteran **Frank J. Vigliano** of Hamilton died January 2. Vigilano retired in 1982 from NJDOT. Survivors include his brother Louis, his niece Patricia (with whom he resided) several nephews, grandnephews and grandnieces.

Former NJDOT landscaping supervisor **John H. Jolly Jr.** died January 6 in New Brunswick. The former U.S. Naval Reserves member retired from NJDOT in 1991. Jolly is survived by his wife Jacqueline, sister Janet Hadley and several nieces and nephews.

Retired NJDOT employee **Ellen Woodell** died January 13 in Glendale, AZ. Survivors include daughters Pat Hunt, Vicki Holloway and Sharon Eskridge, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mafalda M. Lupedee Boland died January 21 in Trenton. The MVS retiree is survived by her husband Peter, sons Samuel and Ralph, sisters Mildred DeBolt, Helen O'Loughlin and Virginia Firth, a brother Vito, a grandson, and several nieces and nephews.

MVS retiree **E. Mae Muir** of Lawrenceville died January 25 in Newtown, PA. Survivors include daughter Lois Merritt, her sister Laura Carpenter, several grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Southampton resident **Virginia Rafalowski** died January 25 in Marlton. A retired MVS supervising auditor, Rafalowski is survived by her husband Sigismund, daughter Sandra, son Paul, several grandsons, a great-granddaughter and many other relatives.

Elesio Sebastiani of Levittown, PA died January 25. The U.S. Army-Air Force veteran of World War II retired in 1975 from NJDOT. Survivors include his wife Rose, son Gregory, brother Oddino, sisters Elia Ugolini and Irene Donini, several

continued on page 4

Obituaries *continued from page 3*

grandsons, a great-grandson and other relatives.

Retired NJDOT Inspector **Louis Luyber Jr**. died February 9 in Hamilton. Survivors include his wife Gloria, daughter Meg Walker, sons Louis and John Luyber and Doden, Philip and Dennis DeSousa, and several grandchildren.

Richard A. Shaw died February 22 in Salem. Retired from NJDOT as a Supervising Engineering Aide, Shaw was also an Army veteran of the Korean War. Survivors include his wife Anjule, son Richard, daughter Cynthia Graff, brother Donald and several grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

New Jersey
Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 600
Trenton , New Jersey 08625-0600

Printed on recycled paper

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Trenton, NJ
Permit No. 21

Check your calendars

March looks like a busy month at NJDOT, but if you're a manager and have extra time, you may consider volunteering as an adjunct faculty member. The Human Resource Development Institute (HRDI) needs trainers for supervision and management topics, diversity, customer service, workplace violence and stress management.

There's in-service "training for the trainer" offered, and all classes are held during the workday. Call Human Resources Manager William Bennett at (609) 530-2954 for more information.

Check your benefits

While you're checking your calendars, you should take time to check your health benefits coverage. NJDOT and the Division of Pensions and Benefits conduct regular audits on the limits of employees' coverages. Be careful if you list dependents.

Remember, they must be eligible for dependent coverage on your plan. If you're unsure, check with the NJDOT Health Benefits Unit at (609) 530-6391 or 4345. The phone call may save you time and money, as appointing authorities are seeking restitutions through fines from violators.

Ferwood men *continued from page 1*

certification as ASE Automotive Technicians. Passing the Electrical/Electronics systems test at the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence were Crew Supervisor Mechanic Carl Burda, Equipment Inspector Edgar Holmgren, Auto Mechanics David Benedetti, John Bentz, William Churchman, Warren Couch, Reynaldo Inovero, Michael Johnson, Gerhardt Kaniper, David Miller, Jeffrey Nagy, Joseph Palumbo and Jeffrey Wills.

DOT TOT gets accredited

DOT TOT Child Care Center, operated by Toddler's Village Learning Center and located on Lower Ferry Road was awarded the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA) in December. The national accreditation is based on rigorous self-study, surveys of parents and staff, verification by early childhood education/child care professionals and a final review by the NECPA board. DOT TOT is the only child care center in New Jersey to receive this award.

For more information on the center or its programs, call Mary Innocenzi, Director, at (609) 530-6590.

Help reduce pollution

El Niño gave us a warmer winter than usual this year and the weather people predict a sweltering summer. On hazy summer days, the Ozone Action Partnership (NJDOT is a member) announces when ground level ozone concentration could exceed the federal health-based air quality standard. When NJDOT issues an Ozone Alert! it often includes suggestions about your vehicle and driving.

Although summer's several months away, you can help reduce pollution everyday (regardless of the weather) by taking proper care of your vehicle. Have it maintained on a regular basis according to your owner's manual. Also, never tamper with your emissions control system.

Keep your tires properly inflated to ensure maximum fuel efficiency. Check your vehicle's wheel alignment and adjust it as necessary.

When you fill up your fuel tank, do not "top it off" because it leads to spills and evaporative emissions. Buy fuel with the appropriate octane level, and use the proper engine oil viscosity as recommended in your car's owner's manual.